

In re: Schwindeman et al
Serial No.: 09/625,787
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REMARKS

Applicant has amended Claim 17 to include the recitations of canceled Claim 21 (and previously cancelled Claim 20). Thus, Applicants believe amended Claim 17 is allowable.

Applicants have made such amendment to facilitate prosecution of the application. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications on any of the cancelled claims.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



F. Michael Sajovec
Registration No. 31,793

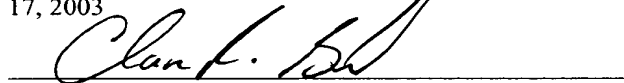


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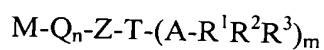
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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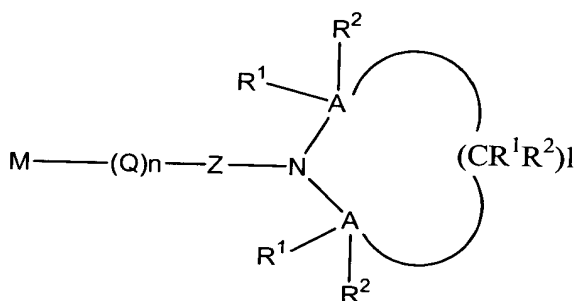

Clara R. Beard

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

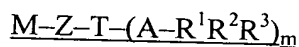
17. A hydrocarbon composition comprising one or more [at least two] protected functionalized chain extended anionic polymerization initiators of the formula



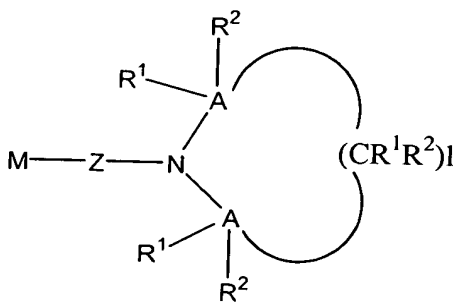
or of the formula



and at least one additional initiator comprises one or more non-chain extended compounds of the formula



or



wherein:

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M is lithium;

Q is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbyl group derived by incorporation of at least one conjugated diene hydrocarbons or mixtures thereof;

Z is a straight chain hydrocarbon connecting group which contains 3-25 carbon atoms;

T is oxygen;

$(A-R^1R^2R^3)_m$ is a protecting group in which A is carbon and R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are alkyl;

n is >0 and <1 ; and

m is 1.